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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for transferring data between a read/write transducer and a data storage medium involves encoding a first set of data blocks of a data field according to a first coding constraint for storage on the data storage medium. The data blocks have a predetermined block size. The data field includes a last data block that stores fewer data bytes than that accommodated by the predetermined block size. The last data block is encoded according to a second coding constraint for storage on the data storage medium, such that no pad bytes are required to complete encoding of the last data block. The first set of data blocks transferred from the data storage medium are decoded according to the first coding constraint, and the last data block transferred from the data storage medium is decoded according to the second coding constraint.